

NEWS



A NiSource Company

801 E. 86th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tom Cuddy, Manager
NIPSCO Communications
(219) 647-6556

PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

NIPSCO Encourages Customers To Use Carbon Monoxide Detectors

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) reminds customers to learn the symptoms of and preventative actions for avoiding carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, tasteless and non-corrosive gas created whenever combustion takes place without sufficient oxygen. Carbon monoxide is relatively harmless in open spaces, but can be very poisonous if allowed to accumulate. Malfunctioning appliances or improper venting are major sources of carbon monoxide.

Symptoms

NIPSCO encourages customers to recognize the symptoms and take preventative action to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide may cause any or all of the following: headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, irregular breathing, rapid heartbeat, ringing in the ears, seeing spots, fatigue, confusion, memory loss, loss of coordination, blurred vision, feeling ill or tired at home, but fine away from home, loss of consciousness, coma, seizures, cardiac arrest and respiratory failure.

Other household symptoms include foul-smelling or stale air, the smell of exhaust fumes, a yellow/orange flame on gas ranges, furnace or water heater burners, soot around outside of chimney, furnace or water heater flue vent or fireplace, or large areas of condensation of water vapor on walls or windows.



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What to do

Get into fresh air quickly if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning and contact 911 immediately. If you suspect a natural gas leak, leave the home immediately and contact 911 and NIPSCO from a neighbor's home.

Prevention tips

- Purchase carbon monoxide detectors.
- Make certain all fuel-burning equipment (coal, wood, natural gas, Kerosene, and fuel oil) is installed, inspected and operated properly.
- Hire a professional to install appliances, carefully follow the manufacturers' instructions and maintain equipment according established guidelines.
- Do not cut off or restrict combustion air sources to appliances.
- Provide adequate indoor ventilation when using fireplaces or unvented space heaters.
- Never burn charcoal indoors or in an enclosed space.
- Clean chimney and check for blockage, especially with wood-burning fireplaces and stoves.
- Open garage before starting vehicle.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipSCO.com

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